

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 17-43 are pending. By the foregoing, claims 1-4 have been amended to include a recitation that the location of the wetness indicator is facilitated by the strip part having a different colour or tint than the remaining part of the backsheet or than the backsheet. Support for these amendments may be found throughout the application and at least on page 6, lines 4-6. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-11, 18-25, 27-41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cammarota et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,307,119. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to an absorbent article having a liquid-impervious backsheet comprising a strip part and a remaining part, with the strip part being an integral part of the backsheet, and the strip part having a different color or tint than the remaining part of the backsheet. A wetness indicator is arranged at an inside of the liquid impervious backsheet in a pattern and is visible through the backsheet. The wetness indicator is applied on or adjacent to the strip such that the location of the wetness indicator is facilitated by the strip part having a different colour or tint than the remaining part of the backsheet. The absorbent article also includes a liquid pervious topsheet and an absorbent body enclosed between the topsheet and the backsheet. Cammarota et al. does not disclose an absorbent article having all of these features.

Cammarota et al. relates to absorbent articles having wetness indicating graphics incorporating a training zone. According to the Office Action, the strip part

72 is integral and has a different color than the backsheet 40 and wetness indicator 66 is arranged on an inside of the backsheet 40 and is applied adjacent the strip part 72. The Office Action refers to Figure 1. However, the strip 72 is actually a simulated fly opening. *Column 16, line 22*. Moreover, the fly opening is an example of an appearance-related component. *Column 15, line 65 - column 16, line 4*. The strip 72 and the wetness indicator 66 are separate items with no correlation to each other or relevance as to placement on the product described.

Claim 1 recites that the wetness indicator is applied on or adjacent the strip such that the location of the wetness indicator is facilitated by the strip part having a different colour or tint than the remaining part of the backsheet. As described in the specification, by the fact that the wetness indicator 9 is applied on or adjacent the strip 10, which has an appearance different from the rest of the backsheet material, the identification of the location of the wetness indicator 9 is facilitated. *Page 6, lines 4-6*. This feature makes it easier, for example, for a nurse to identify the wetness indicator on an absorbent article and by that facilitate the reading of the wetness indicator. *Page 2, lines 17-18*.

Cammarota et al. does not disclose the strip 72 as having any particular placement with regard to the wetness indicator nor does it disclose strip 72 with any relationship to wetness indicator 66. For at least this reason, Cammarota et al. does not anticipate claim 1.

Independent claim 2 recites that an absorbent article includes a plurality of wetness indicators arranged at an inside of a liquid impervious backsheet in a pattern and being visible through the backsheet, wherein the wetness indicators are

applied on or adjacent a separate strip of the material fastened on the inside of the backsheet having a different color or tint than the backsheet. The location of the plurality of wetness indicators is facilitated by the strip part having a different colour or tint than the backsheet. Cammarota et al. does not disclose an absorbent article having all of these features.

In particular, Cammarota et al. does not disclose strip 72 with a particular positional relationship to wetness indicators 66. Moreover, strip 72 does not facilitate the location of the wetness indicators as defined in claim 2. Therefore, Cammarota et al. does not anticipate claim 2.

Independent claim 3 recites that the strip is a separate strip of material fastened on an inside of the backsheet, the strip having a different color or tint than the backsheet, and that the wetness indicator is applied adjacent to the strip in an area of the backsheet not covered by the strip. The wetness indicator is applied on or adjacent the strip such that the location of the wetness indicator is facilitated by the strip part having a different colour or tint than the backsheet. This feature is not disclosed in Cammarota et al.

As discussed above, strip 72 is not positionally related to wetness indicator 66 and does not facilitate the use of the wetness indicator thereby. Thus, Cammarota et al. does not disclose a wetness indicator applied adjacent to a strip in an area of the backsheet not covered by the strip as defined in claim 3 and Cammarota et al. does not anticipate claim 3.

Independent claim 4 is directed to an absorbent article comprising a liquid pervious topsheet, a liquid impervious backsheet, an absorbent body enclosed

therebetween, and a wetness indicator arranged at an inside of the liquid impervious backsheet in a pattern and being visible through the pattern. The liquid impervious backsheet includes a strip having a different color or tint than a remaining part of the backsheet. The wetness indicator is applied on or adjacent the strip such that the location of the wetness indicator is facilitated by the strip part having a different colour or tint than the remaining part of the backsheet. The color or tint of the strip is an indication of the size or total absorption capacity of the absorbent article.

For at least the reasons given regarding claims 1-3, Cammarota et al. does not disclose an absorbent article having each of the features of independent claim 4. Therefore, Cammarota et al. does not anticipate claim 4.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1-4 are believed to be allowable over Cammarota et al.

The rejected dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1-4 are allowable. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection over Cammarota et al.

Applicant appreciates the finding that claims 17, 26 and 42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, in view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Entry of the foregoing amendments and favorable action on the application are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or regarding the application in general, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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